old migrant families from former East Pakistan, who arrived in India immediately after partition and prior to 31.3.1958 and were settled in Pilibhit district have been given the admissible rehabilitation assistance years ago and they are now deemed to have merged with local population. There is no proposal under consideration to give them any further rehabilitation assistance.

[*English*]

Benefits of Handicapped Persons

2772. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether persons having physically disability on face, lips and nose with nasal defects (HARE-LIPS) are considered eligible to avail benefits admissible to physically handicapped ; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b). The minimum degree of disability should be 40% in order to be eligible for any concessions /benefits.

Chief Minister's Conference during October,1991

2773. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of Chief Ministers was convened on October 4, 1991 in Delhi;

(b) if so, the subjects discussed in the Conference; and

(c) the outcome of the discussion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir. A Conference of Chief Ministers' was held in New Delhi on October 4-5, 1991.

(b) The following five subjects were on the Agenda of the Conference:-

(1) Prevention of atrocities on Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes.

(2) Working of the Public Distribution System.

(3) Maintenance of land records.

(4) Working of cooperatives.

(5) Mounting exenditure of the Government.

However, due to paucity of time, items at S.No. 1, 2 and 5 above could be discussed.

(c) In regard to the item relating to the prevention of atrocities on Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes the Conference agreed that this was a national question and to be considered on the basis of national consensus and that the Chief Ministers would be in direct touch with this matter on a continuing basis in order to take effective and timely action. The Conference also made suggestions about filling important positions by the officers belonging to Scheduled Castes/Schedule Tribes and filling quotas of appointment to the posts reserved for them.

In respect of other two items, there was exchange of views on how to improve the working of the public distribution system and how to curb the mounting expenditure of the Government on the Non-Plan side, and it was *inter alia*, agreed that a new revamped public distribution system in certain identified